



Senate

General Assembly

January Session, 2011

File No. 135

Senate Bill No. 1042

Senate, March 22, 2011

The Committee on Human Services reported through SEN. MUSTO of the 22nd Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

***AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROJECT UNDER THE JOBS FIRST
EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2011*) (a) The Commissioner of
2 Social Services and the Labor Commissioner shall implement, within
3 available appropriations, a pilot program that serves not less than one
4 hundred persons who are receiving benefits under the temporary
5 family assistance program and participating in the jobs first
6 employment services program. The pilot program shall provide to
7 participants: (1) Intensive case management services to identify
8 participants' (A) employment goals, (B) support service needs, and (C)
9 training, education and work experience needs; (2) assistance in
10 accessing needed support services, training, education and work
11 experience; and (3) funding to facilitate participation in necessary adult
12 basic education, skills training, post-secondary education or
13 subsidized employment.

14 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (a) and (c) of

15 section 17b-112 of the general statutes, the Commissioner of Social
16 Services shall grant extensions of time-limited cash assistance benefits
17 to a person who has made a good-faith effort to comply with the
18 requirements of the pilot program and has not exceeded the sixty-
19 month limit, described in subsection (c) of section 17b-112 of the
20 general statutes.

21 (c) Not later than October 1, 2012, the Commissioner of Social
22 Services and the Labor Commissioner shall jointly submit a report, in
23 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes,
24 to the joint standing committees of the General Assembly having
25 cognizance of matters relating to human services and appropriations
26 and the budgets of state agencies concerning the pilot program. Such
27 report shall include, but shall not be limited to: (1) The number of
28 persons participating in the pilot program; (2) the education, training
29 and work experience activities of the participants; (3) the support
30 services identified as needed by program participants through the
31 provision of case management services by the Department of Social
32 Services and the Labor Department and the support services actually
33 received by each program participant; (4) the educational degrees and
34 certificates obtained by participants; and (5) descriptions of the
35 employment obtained by participants as a result of the pilot program.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	July 1, 2011	New section
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HS *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 12 \$	FY 13 \$
Social Services, Dept.	GF - Potential Cost	58,200- 296,400	58,200- 296,400

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill specifies that Department of Social Services (DSS) and Department of Labor (DOL) implement the provisions of the bill within available appropriations. However, if the bill were to be implemented the costs to DSS could be between \$58,200 and \$296,400.

The bill results in a cost to DSS associated with extending Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) benefits. DSS can extend such benefits for participants of the pilot (established by the bill) who make a good faith effort to comply with the program. The average annual cost per TFA case is estimated at \$5,820 in FY 12 and \$5,928 in FY 13. It is unknown how many pilot program participants would be granted an extension of benefits and for how long.

For illustrative purposes, four cost scenarios are presented in the table below:

Potential Scenario	Cases	Months Extended	FY 12 Cost (\$)	FY 13 Cost (\$)
1	50	12	291,000	296,400
2	20	12	116,400	118,560
3	50	6	145,500	148,200
4	20	6	\$58,200	\$59,280

The bill requires DSS and DOL to establish a pilot program for at least 100 people who receive TFA and participate in the Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) program. It is assumed that existing JFES funding for such participants would be used to meet the pilot program requirements, which would not result in additional costs.

The Out Years

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to inflation, the number of pilot program participants granted an extension of benefits, and the length of such extension. The bill does not specify an end date for the pilot program.

Sources: Department of Social Services Caseload Information

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 1042*****AN ACT CONCERNING A PILOT PROJECT UNDER THE JOBS FIRST EMPLOYMENT SERVICES PROGRAM.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill requires the social services and labor commissioners, within available appropriations, to implement a pilot program for at least 100 people who (1) receive Temporary Family Assistance (TFA) cash assistance and (2) participate in the Jobs First Employment Services (JFES) program. The pilot program must offer services and supports, including case management. The commissioners must jointly report on the pilot to the Human Services and Appropriations committees by October 1, 2012.

The bill also requires the Department of Social Services (DSS) commissioner to grant an unlimited number of extensions to TFA recipients who have tried to comply with the pilot program, up to the 60-month limit established in federal and state law.

The bill does not (1) specify how long the pilot runs, (2) specify how participants are selected, or (3) define what is expected of participants for them to be considered in compliance. It also does not specify whether these families are counted in the state's Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) work participation rate.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2011

PILOT PROGRAM***Program Services***

The bill requires the pilot program to provide to participants:

1. intensive case management services to identify their

employment goals and support service (e.g., child care) training, education, and work experience needs;

2. help in accessing the support services, training, education, and work experience; and
3. funding to facilitate their participation in necessary adult basic education, skills training, post-secondary education, or subsidized employment.

Many of these services and supports are already available to JFES clients.

Report

The bill requires both commissioners to submit a joint report to the Human Services and Appropriations committees by October 1, 2012. The report must include:

1. the number of participants;
2. the education, training, and work experience activities of participants;
3. the support services that the case manager determines are needed and those that program participants actually receive;
4. educational degrees and certificates participants obtain; and
5. a description of jobs that participants get as a result of the pilot.

TFA Extensions for Pilot Participants

The bill requires the DSS commissioner to extend TFA program benefits beyond 21 months to pilot participants who have made a good faith effort to comply with the pilot requirements and have not received more than 60 months of TFA benefits. (Federal and state law generally prohibit states from providing assistance to a family for more than 60 months.) Currently, DSS grants up to two extensions to families that have made a good faith effort to comply with the Jobs

First requirements but have family income less than the TFA benefit. Extensions can also be granted in other circumstances, including domestic violence. DSS can grant subsequent extensions in certain circumstances. It is unclear under the bill if people granted extensions under the pilot would also qualify for existing law's extensions.

BACKGROUND

Jobs First

The Jobs First program is the state's welfare-to-work program under which the state provides cash assistance (TFA) and employment services to enable low-income families to become self-sufficient within the program's 21-month time limit. Able-bodied adults in families receiving TFA work with a case manager to develop an employment plan that includes activities to ensure that they find work and can support their families by the end of the 21-month period. Federal and state law prescribes the types of work-related activities in which the adult may participate and have those activities count towards the federal TANF work participation rate.

Related Bill

sHB 5558, reported favorably by the Human Services Committee, permits JFES clients to attend educational courses during the first 20 hours of the program's 30-hour work requirement.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Human Services Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 12 Nay 6 (03/10/2011)